

ANNEX: PLANT HIGHLIGHTS AT THE ENHANCED SECRET GARDEN



Anthurium veitchii

Commonly known as the King Anthurium, this huge anthurium is naturally found in Colombia growing as an epiphyte. Its leaves, which have a corrugated pattern, can grow up to 2m long, making it a perfect specimen plant.



Begonia maculata

The “Polka Dot Begonia” is so called because of its distinctive green leaves speckled with silvery-white spots. The leaves also have red undersides, lending the foliage a showiness that contributes to its popularity as an ornamental begonia.



Begonia paulensis

The “Spiderweb Begonia” from Brazil has round, ribbed leaves with an uncanny resemblance to spider webs, hence its name. The white flowers, which are covered in dark-red bristles, complete the illusion of hairy spiders hanging in the air above their webs.



Calanthe triplicate

This delicate, evergreen terrestrial orchid is known in Australia as the “Christmas Orchid” because of its blooming season. The flower stalks can have as many as 40 striking flowers, all pure white except for a tiny red or yellow spot on the lip. The genus *Calanthe* was used to create the first artificial orchid hybrid *Calanthe Dominyi* (a cross between *C. masuca* and *C. triplicate*) in the 1850s by John Dominy of Veitch Nurseries.



Cibotium glaucum

Also known as Hawaiian Tree Fern or Hapu'u Pulu, the distant ancestors of these ferns grew when dinosaurs still roamed the earth! "Hapu'u Pulu" means "wooly tree fern", for the masses of soft silky hair, which was used by locals as a gauze to stop bleeding, and later exported as stuffing for pillows and mattresses.



Elaphoglossum metallicum

This fern from Peru has leathery, glossy leaves which are unique and attractive as they have a metallic blue-green sheen – hence the name *metallicum*.



Impatiens Niamniamensis

The "Parrot Impatiens" is called such because of its bright red and yellow blooms that resemble flamboyantly-coloured birds. Native to Africa, it is named after the Niam Niam ethnic group, who live in the region from which the plant was first collected in 1909.



***Porroglossum* spp.**

The hinged lip of this miniature orchid is touch-triggered to snap shut like a Venus Flytrap. This mechanism traps insects who venture near in the flower centre to ensure pollen exchange between one plant and another. After about 30 minutes, the lip reopens to release the insect.



Wollemi Pine

The Wollemi Pine was discovered in 1994 in a ravine near Sydney. It is among the most astonishing botanical discoveries of the 20th century as it is the only remaining species of an ancient plant group that can be traced back to the time when Australia, Antarctica and South America were one land mass.